

The Drayton Valley

Western Review

www.draytonvalleywesternreview.com

Yearly subscription \$38.00 plus GST

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online
@draytonvalleywesternreview.com

Tuesday, December 8, 2015



Craft-a-Gift

There was fun to be had at the On the Border Lounge & Grill were and

34

Photo Radar

Photo radar has raised about \$295,000, watch out for more enforcements coming forward

4



Vol. 50 No. 54 \$1.25 incl. GST

Paws-ing for a photograph with Santa



Six-year-old Goldenoodle Bauer strikes a pose with Santa Claus during the Cause for Critters photo shoot held at the K-9 Training Academy November 28. Proceeds from the shoot will go toward maintenance and veterinary bills for the dogs and cats in the shelter.

Cathy Westman Western Review

Julie's
CHRISTMAS SHOPPING HOURS:
Saturdays 10am - 4pm
Sundays, Dec. 13 & 20, Noon - 4pm
Late Night Shopping Starts
December 14th - M-F Open
Burst-Open
780-621-6535

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News

Brazeau County united against Bill 6

Western Review

Brazeau County along with local residents are concerned about Bill 6 and residents are commending Reeve Bart Guyon's recent letter.

"As a council supporting our agricultural neighbours, and in light of the negative consequences Bill 6 could have on our community, we're opposing the passage of this bill," stated the letter written by Guyon as posted on Brazeau County website.

Resident Maureen Schweb came forward during the Brazeau County council meeting on Dec. 1 and appreciated Guyon's efforts.

At the meeting, Guyon said, the county council has endorsed his letter.

Bill 6 would see farmers in Alberta receive workers compensation benefits in case injuries occur on jobs and cover farms under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. People protesting the bill are concerned with neighbours and children not being able to help them with farm work.

In an interview with the Western Review Drayton Valley, Devon M.A. Mark Smith said the bill goes to the

heart of what democracy is about. "Bill 6 is an utter and absolute failure because it's trying to impose legislation without listening or consulting and talking with the people," he said.

One rally was organized recently in Edmonton by 20-year-old Sara Whitehead who grew up on a farm near Breton, according to a story by the Edmonton Journal.

"The government is trying to 'pull the wool over our eyes and not paint us a clear picture as to what they're doing with this bill,'" she said as quoted in the story.

Smith said when he met people at the rally including his constituents, he let them know that they are making a difference.

"This government will have to change and if it doesn't, it will be remembered during the election," he said.

Another letter has been written by the Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board advising the NDP government to retract Bill 6 until there has been sufficient consultation with Alberta farmers regarding farm safety.

The letter written by chairman of the Agricultural Service Board Rick Ennis states farming is a lifestyle and it's much more than a job.

"Most people who grew up on a farm fondly remember days spent helping their family or enjoying the freedom that comes with rural life and appreciate the skill set that this experience has given them. Will membership in 4-H be impacted? Will children be able to raise chickens and sell eggs at a farmers market?" said Ennis in the letter.

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES Resident Avale Peck was in front of Brazeau County council asking to see if county would talk to neighbouring counties or municipalities and make the provincial government aware of the current oil and gas industry that is hurting the rural parts of Alberta.

She also said an event on Dec. 17 will see the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses come to Drayton Valley and meet with area business owners.

She added that a non-partisan group would be able to share what the area business owners are going through right now with the provincial government.

ST. ANTHONY SHARK PARK Shark Park committee members were in front of council on Dec. 1 asking for \$100,000 from Brazeau County to help fund the accessibility park and outdoor gym that they are working on.

The group was in front of Drayton Valley town council recently as well, asking for support.

The members let Brazeau County councillors know the park would be useful to Brazeau County residents as county children attend St. Anthony School and the park will be located near that school.

CAO Marco Schoeninger advised council to receive the request for information and let the group work together with administration to explore other options. A motion was passed for administration to do more research and bring it back to council.

REQUEST FROM DRAYTON VALLEY HORSE CLUB The Drayton Valley Horse Club requested Brazeau County for \$2,500 in funding for general operation and maintenance of the Pembina Riverside Trails by the club members.

County administration recommended to not approve the request as the club had received \$10,000 for bathroom upgrades last year along with \$2,500 for general supplies. The club also received about \$14,000 this year for a lease renewal.

Administration wanted to focus on the funds for other recreational facilities that they may need the money for a specific need. It was also noted that there would be a surplus at the end of this year where the funding could have been sourced from.

A motion was passed to not approve the funding request and forward a letter of response to the club.

Reeve Bart Guyon said the councillors should look at making a list of recreational organizations that the county could co-sponsor with the Town of Drayton Valley.

OLD PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING Councilors debated what to do with the old Brazeau County Public Works Shop on Industrial Road.

The building is currently used by the county to store equipment.

Reeve Bart Guyon wanted to sell the building while Coun. Mark Gressler wanted to discuss leasing or renting the building.

A motion was passed to put the building up for sale, as per CAO Marco Schoeninger's advice to council, and continue to utilize the facility as storage in the meantime. The motion was opposed by Coun. Gressler.

BRANDING SESSION AT AJURORA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



A branding session was held at Aurora Elementary School to get input from the school's Grade 6 students. The branding session was an initiative of the town to gain insight into the community of Drayton Valley. Town councillors were present at the session to guide the students.

Need to get something off your chest?

Email letters to the editor to caty.westman@sunmedia.ca

NOTICE OF APPROVED DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

Please be advised that the Development Authority of the Town of Drayton Valley has approved the following permits with conditions:

DV15-124 5128-51 Avenue
DTIC-Doverland Direct Control District
Installation of Storage
Issued with conditions: November 25, 2015

APPEAL AGAINST A DECISION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

An appeal may be made to the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board by any person claiming to be affected by the aforementioned decision. Written submissions stating grounds for appeal plus required fees must be received within 14 days after the date of Newspaper Publication.

The Town of Drayton Valley
Attn: Jennifer Martin
Planning & Development Officer
Box 6837, 5129-52 Street Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A 1A1
Phone: 780-514-2200 Fax: 780-542-5753
Email: planning@draytonvalley.ca



UP & COMING...

WHEN THE SNOW FALLS PLEASE... obey all posted no parking signs & move your car when required. Help us keep your streets clear of snow. Violation of the no parking signs will result in being tagged and/or towed at the owner's expense. The Town of Drayton Valley will also be removing its residents to keep their sidewalks clear of ice & snow and avoid shovelling snow onto the roadways.

Join the Bits & Blues Group - Municipal Library 5120-52 Street, Dec 19 - 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Get together with other single parents, share tips and ideas over coffee.

INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAM
New, 30 & Dec 11 & 13:00-1:00 pm
HW Pick-Up Jr High School is inviting the seniors in our community to stay by for cards, coffee and a walk. Call Jane at 780-514-2200 for more info.

To Register for the programs listed below drop by the Community front desk or call email: community@draytonvalley.ca
Saturdays 9:00-11:30 am

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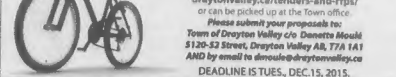
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ARTISTIC BIKE RACKS

The Town of Drayton Valley is inviting local metal-workers to submit proposals for the fabrication of artistic bike racks. Bid forms can be found on the Town's website: draytonvalley.ca/tenders-and-rfp/ or can be picked up at the Town office. Please submit your proposals to: Town of Drayton Valley c/o Donette Mould 5120-52 Street, Drayton Valley AB, T7A 1A1 AND by email to dmould@draytonvalley.ca DEADLINE 5 P.M., DEC. 15, 2015.



Holiday Waste Collection Schedule

Please be advised of the following changes for waste collection during the holiday season:

Waste will be collected on Thursday, December 24, 2015 & Thursday, December 31, 2015 as usual.

Waste scheduled for pick up on Friday December 25 will be picked up Saturday, December 26, 2015.

Waste scheduled for pick up on Friday January 1 will be picked up Saturday, January 2, 2016.

Thank you for your co-operation!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Director of Information Services
CETC Managing Director
Information on Town Employment Opportunities can be found on our website: www.draytonvalley.ca/employment-opportunities

Fired up for the holidays

Friday, December 11
FREE DRESS WARM SECRET LOCATION!
Meet across from the town office to board the shuttle at 4:30 pm

• hot dogs • hot dogs • graffiti art
• marshmallows • snow-globing • music
• capture the flag game • a lot!

Get ready to lose, laugh and have fun!
AGES 13-17

Call to hold your seat: Shelia (780) 514-2260
Like our complete Facebook page for updates. Meet have signed permission slip & student id to board shuttle.

Town Office Civic Centre 5120-52 Street | Tel: 780.514.2200 | Fax: 780.542.5753 | Box 6837 Drayton Valley T7A 1A1 | 8:30am - 4:30pm | 24hr Info Line: 780.514.2200
For more information on upcoming events, things to do, services and much more!
Download the Drayton Valley App - Available for FREE on the Apple App Store & Google Play Store. Keep up to date on local upcoming events, things to do, services and much more!

RAYOR
Glenn McIsaac • 780.514.5868
misaac@draytonvalley.ca

COUNCILLOR
Nicole Neadeau • 780.514.5864
nneadeau@draytonvalley.ca

COUNCILLOR
Graham Long • 780.898.5494
glong@draytonvalley.ca

COUNCILLOR
Dean Shuler • 780.515.0110
dshuler@draytonvalley.ca

COUNCILLOR
Fayrell Wheeler • 780.898.3655
fwheeler@draytonvalley.ca

COUNCILLOR
Debra Bossert • 780.514.0868
dbossert@draytonvalley.ca

COUNCILLOR
Brandy Fredrickson • 780.898.1541
bfredrickson@draytonvalley.ca

NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
Wed. December 9, 2015
Council Chambers, Town Office • 6:30 pm

NEXT GOVERNANCE & PRIORITIES MEETING
Wed. December 10, 2015
Town Office • 9:00 am

Call the EDC they have spaces!
CHECK US OUT!
Children ages 12 mos - 5 yrs
Call for more information 780-514-2248

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News

Running red lights in Drayton Valley will cost you

Melissa Lalli
Western Review

Running stop signs and red lights will cost you \$388 but no demerit points in the New Year. Town of Drayton Valley has started intersection enforcement discouraging drivers to run red lights and stop signs by issuing violation tickets.

Just like photo radar that came into the picture earlier this year, intersection enforcement is in a warning period currently and will continue to be until around January.

"We have complaints about intersections, of people run-

ning red lights, people running stop signs and we had accidents at incidents where people have run red lights or stop signs," said Town Bylaw officer Pam Balke.

Photo Radar will continue along with the new intersection enforcement program. So far photo radar has brought in more than \$75,000 and is part of the town's safe and healthy community initiative.

When Western Review asked about photo radar being a cash grab, as many comments on social media suggest, Balke did not agree.

"It's not a cash grab. It's peo-

ple who are breaking the law. They are getting a ticket for breaking the law. It's a provincial statute. If you don't break a provincial statute you don't get a ticket. I don't understand how that's a cash grab," she said.

She added that drivers who do not follow the rules are the ones who get penalized. She also said the enforcement has made quite a difference, especially in the school zones.

"It's actually making a difference, I have noticed and I am sure other people have. Vehicles are slowing down especially in the school zones that we are more concerned about

than anywhere else that people are heeding the signs now," she said.

Intersection enforcement will take place at major intersections in Drayton Valley with mobile units just like photo radar along with busier stop signs like the one on 50 Ave. and Beckett Rd.

"It's warnings [right now]. And that would be a month of warnings or it will take us sometime into January and after that violation tickets will be issued for people who do not stop at stop signs or red lights," said Balke.

Staff Sgt. Mal-

colm Callihoo of Drayton Valley RCMP detachment said running red lights and stop signs is a problem everywhere and not just in Drayton Valley. He added that the new program will help just like photo radar has, especially since most collisions take place at intersections.

According to a report that to town council on June 24, there had been 1,195 tickets issued from May 1 to June 5. No other numbers were available at the time of interview. Balke confirmed photo radar started around May-June.

CHRISTMAS FUN AT THE ROTARY LIBRARY



On Dec. 2, parents and children participated in some Christmas stories and songs at the Rotary Library. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus were also present at the library. Children were given a chance to take photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus handed out some sugar cookies.

Justin Klomden Western Review

DRAYTON VALLEY PHOTO RADAR NOTICE

This week photo enforcement will be conducted at the following locations:

- Highway 22
- 43 Street
- 43 Avenue
- 42 Avenue
- 45 Avenue
- 46 Avenue
- 49 Avenue
- 50 Avenue
- 55 Avenue
- Beckett Road
- Madison Avenue
- All other areas where speeding is a concern

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Regular Cattle Sales Every Monday at 9:00am

First Thursday of Every Month at 6:00pm

REGULAR CATTLE SALE AT 11:00am

REGULAR CATTLE SALE AT 11:00am

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Brazeau County News

www.brazeau.ab.ca | 780-542-7777

FALL CONVENTION BRINGS RESULTS FOR COUNTY INITIATIVES

At the recent Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMD&C) convention (Nov. 17-20) years of lobbying by Brazeau County Councillors about safety concerns on Secondary Highway 759 and Secondary Highway 620 came to a successful end when the Provincial Government committed to addressing those concerns and improving safety on the heavily-travelled highways. The Province will be tendering paving repair projects for both highways in 2016.

The fall convention was also an opportunity for Brazeau County to talk about where it sees the future of alternative energy, both locally and provincially. While at the convention the AAMD&C organization approved supporting a Brazeau County Council resolution regarding alternate energy. Specifically, the resolution asks the Provincial Government to provide subsidies or grants for solar energy technologies, and provide attractive micro generation rates to promote the transition from using fossil fuels to solar energy.

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS

- December 11 - Land Use Bylaw Review Meeting starting at 9 a.m. in Council Chamber.
- December 15 - Council Meeting starting at 9 a.m. in Council Chamber. Open to the public.
- December 17 - Land Use Bylaw Review Meeting starting at 9 a.m. in Council Chamber.
- December 24 - Office Closed, (Christmas Eve)
- December 25 - Office Closed, (Christmas Day)
- December 28 - Office Closed, (Day in lieu of Boxing Day)
- Information about Brazeau County employment opportunities can be found in the employment section on our website, www.brazeau.ab.ca/departments/administration/employment.

SNOW REMOVAL AGREEMENTS

CALL 780-542-7711

If you already have a Snow Removal Agreement with Brazeau County, you do not need to renew it. Just put your sign up and our crews will spot it. If you have lost your sign, please call our Public Works Department to arrange to replace it.

Interested in snow removal services? Call Public Works for the details.

A quick note to seniors who live within the County - snow removal service for your driveway can be handled by our crews at no charge.

Forms are also available on our website at www.brazeau.ab.ca.

Please call or visit the website to sign up now.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

We are requesting a proposal of a 2 yr. Contract for an Animal Control Officer. Your written proposal shall include:

- Facilities and location;
- Number of cages/pans at facilities;
- Ability to safely catch/transport animals at large;
- Equipment for handling vicious animals;
- Background in handling/housing animals; and
- Compensation needed to run a completed program

Please mail or drop off your proposal to:

Brazeau County
Attention: Director of Community Services
Box 77, Drayton Valley, AB T7A 1R1

Deadline to apply is December 15, 2015 at 5 p.m.

NOTICE OF

SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD HEARING BRAZEAU COUNTY
7401 TWP RD 454 (PO BOX 77), DRAYTON VALLEY, AB T7A 1R1

Take notice that the Subdivision and Development Appeal Board will meet in the Brazeau County Council Chambers on Monday, December 14, 2015 at 10:00 am to consider the following appeal:

APPEAL: To appeal the refusal of Development Permit 150-174 Accessory Shop
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lot 34 Lot 1 - 4A, Block 2, Plan 1989 KS SE 15-50-18-W3M
LANDOWNER/APPELLANT: Hamlet of Cynthia
FILE: R&C Backhoe Service Ltd. 15SDAB-073

Persons who wish to express an opinion on this application may attend the Hearing on Monday, December 14, 2015 at 10:00 am as noted above, submit written comments in advance to the undersigned.

Karoline Drabik, Secretary Designate
Karoline@parioplan.com or 780-423-8824
Subdivision and Development Appeal Board



Reese Bart Goyen, Mayor of Brazeau County, 780-542-7777
Councillor Shirley Mahan, 780-542-7777
Councillor Rita Muir, 780-542-7777
Councillor Marc Grosper, 780-542-7777
Councillor Kara Winterland, 780-542-7777
Councillor Anthony Horvath, 780-542-7777
Councillor Margaret Thompson, 780-542-7777

News

Giesbrecht appeals his sentence

Mamta Lulla
Western Review

Drayton Valley Funeral Services director Harvey Giesbrecht is out on bail and is appealing his nine-month sentence.

The Western Review contacted Giesbrecht and in a brief conversation on the phone that lasted for about two minutes Giesbrecht concluded he had nothing to say.

Giesbrecht was sentenced to nine months in jail in Manitoba followed by two years of probation for charges relating to 21 counts of fraud in March this year that was committed between 2003 and 2009 when he was the owner of

Russell Funeral Home in Beauséjour in Manitoba. Giesbrecht pled guilty to 21 counts of fraud during the trial proceeding. The total amount of fraud was more than \$85,000.

The charges relate back to when he was the owner of Russell Funeral Home and he had received money from families for pre-arranged funerals that were to be put in a trust fund as required by the Pre-Arranged Funeral Services Act.

As per the act, money held in a trust is not to be released to the funeral home until funeral services are completed.

The charges came forward in 2009 when the funeral home was in the

process of being sold to a new owner Richard Wojcik. Wojcik, who owns the Wojcik's Funeral Chapel in Winnipeg, Man., said he is "extremely disturbed" to hear of Giesbrecht's appeal.

The hearing for the appeal has not been scheduled yet.

Giesbrecht filed the appeal on Sept. 2 against his sentence while his bail was approved on Sept. 28 with a surety of \$25,000.

The appeal is based on grounds that the judge had made errors. The crown and the defence had jointly recommended a conditional sentence of two years, but Judge Brent Stewart did not agree with the "house arrest." According to court

documents Stewart did not support the guid pro quo as Giesbrecht was intending to plead guilty anyway. The judge also did not agree to a five-week adjournment to retain a new defence counsel of his choice.

According to the court documents, Giesbrecht is seeking a sentencing reflected in the joint sentencing recommendation.

The court documents also stated Giesbrecht is facing a review before the Alberta Funeral Services Regulatory Board in relation to his convictions. As of last week Giesbrecht was listed as a licensed funeral director and embalmer on the Drayton Valley Funeral Services website.

Need to get something off your chest?

E-mail letters to the editor to cathy.weetman@sunmedia.ca

HAPPY 66TH WEDDING Anniversary
Lew & Darlene Seeley



Love your children,
Linda, Diane, Ellen & Hal

"Good Tidings of Comfort & Hope"
Christmas Remembrance Service
(For those who have lost a loved one)

Thursday, December 10, 2015
7:00 PM
Church of God
5004 - 49 Street Drayton Valley

Come find the comfort and hope you need to carry on this Christmas!

All Welcome - Refreshments following

Please bring a photo of your loved one

For more information - call 780-542-5091

FOUNDATION FESTIVAL



Mamta Lulla Western Review

The 6th annual Foundation Festival and Gala Dinner that was organized by the Drayton Valley Health Services Foundation was sold out. Attendees enjoyed dinner, silent auction and some entertainment.

News

Life of a local swimmer to be turned into a short film

Justine Kimodan
Western Review

A short film inspired by the life of Drayton Valley resident Amber Thomas is moving on to the next stage of a competition organized by Telus. Storyhive is a Telus community-powered funding program that gives filmmakers a chance to bring their story ideas to life. A total of 30 short films, 15 from British Columbia and 15 from Alberta, are competing to get the top two awards, which will be announced in March 2016. Filmmakers of these 30 selected short films each received \$10,000 from Telus in order to create their films.

Filmmakers from Vancouver and owners of Black Rhino Creative, Ryan Mah and Daniel Berish, will start filming Fearless: Portraits of Amber Thomas and will have the film ready by February. The film focuses on the challenges and successes that Thomas faced in life.

"My film is about Amber Thomas. Basically, her story is when she was nine years old, she had a brain tumour and they needed to remove it and when they removed it, what happened was she lost her vision. It was really tragic at nine years old. One of the ways to begin the rehabilitation process (was for) her parents to get her into swimming and she started getting noticed by paralympic coaches," Mah said. "She swam at the Beijing and London Paralympic games, which are amazing achievements, but there was one coach in particular named Marianne Alvarez and she noticed Amber and said, 'Amber, I would like for you to do something bigger which is swim the English Channel'." The English Channel is like the Mount Everest of swimming for it is the biggest open body of water that people have been swimming in and it is a very dangerous swim and very cold. Last year, Amber and her team swam the English Channel and became the first blind woman to relay swim the English Channel which was an incredible feat."

Mah said he and his co-producer Berish are excited to finish the project and tell the story of Thomas.

"We are absolutely thrilled. We are really, really happy to have been selected and we are also very happy to tell the story of Amber Thomas. Her story really needs to be told," said Mah. "I think because she has just done so much in such a short time. She has accomplished things that I think most people won't like being in two paralympic games and swimming in the English Channel."

The film aims to inspire everyone from people whose lives were touched by cancer to athletes.

"Because Amber is a cancer survivor, she had brain tumour, I think it is an inspirational film for people who have survived cancer," Mah said. "I think it is also inspirational for people who are into sports and athletes that if she can do it, anybody can do it. So, I think it is a

really positive message."

Thomas echoed what Mah said and she hopes that people will not let challenges hinder them from achieving their dreams.

"(Do) not set standards. Aim for what you want and if you focus enough on it and if you try hard enough, you would be able to do it," Thomas said. "Do not sit at home and say 'Oh wow is me!' Get out there and prove yourself. When you are faced with something like challenges, it will always make people stronger so take the challenges and work with them rather than letting them work against you."

Out of the top 30 finalists, two of those will be given the top awards through online votes and winners will receive customized career training, a scholarship to the Banff Television Festival, and distribution on Optik Local via Telus Optik TV on Demand. For more information, visit www.storyhive.com.

Need to get something off your chest?
Email letters to the editor to cathy.weetman@sunmedia.ca

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SENIORS AND STUDENTS SOCIALIZED



Justine Kimodan Western Review

Seniors and HW Pickup Junior High School students bond over board games on Nov. 30 at HW Pickup as part of the school's intergenerational program. The second intergenerational program will be held on Dec. 11 and seniors are invited to attend.

Comment

The Drayton Valley

Western Review

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Canada

POSTMEDIA



Our editorial

Standing up for yourself

People appear to be at odds with the NDP government in different sectors in the Drayton Valley and Brazeau County region.

This area has recently been extremely active with what the provincial government is presenting and locals are standing up for what they believe in.

A prime example is 20-year-old Sara Whittle, who grew up in the Breton area. She was able to organize a rally in Edmonton recently against Bill 6.

Local residents from the area have been part of the recent rallies taking place in Edmonton as has local Drayton Valley-Devon MLA Mark Smith.

In some cases, the pen is mightier than the sword. At least that's what Brazeau County Reeve Bart Guyon must believe in. Guyon showed his support by writing a letter and advising against the adoption of Bill 6.

Being a farmer himself, Guyon expressed his concerns for farmers and asked for education and not legislation in this letter, which is available for anyone to read on the Brazeau County website.

In another scenario, just a few weeks ago, business owners attended an evening session hosted by Smith and Shadow Minister of Energy Leela Aheer, who was in Drayton Valley for the evening.

Although Aheer was running a little late that evening, she was able to inspire some individuals to stand up and be vocal. Some might say her advice worked because there might be more of these sessions happening in the area.

to discuss the oil and gas sector and the impact it's been having on other businesses and the entire region in general.

The organization of another such event is being done by a local resident Avelle Peck and some other residents. The group has been busy organizing an upcoming meeting that will have members from the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses. The event is on the evening of Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Legion Hall.

The event that night will once again show some support for oil and gas industry locally.

The event with Smith and Aheer also started off by a conversation with a resident, Perry Mays, who had initially approached Smith's office.

Smith told the Western Review he wasn't aware of who was coming to the get-together that night because it was arranged by his constituents. A visit went around and there was a room full of people discussing how to make their lives better, given the current economic state.

It's clear that we live in a democratic country and that means the NDP government is here to stay because a majority of Albertans voted for them. But that doesn't mean the people in this area will accept what's been served to them. Perhaps people in this area are not willing to put up with the NDP government's ways anymore and they are looking for a change.

The provincial government needs to hear their voices and, well, these days people are roaring.

Maybe I am wrong to be spending much of my money on travel now instead of saving it for a down payment for a house or for my future. Or maybe I am right and maybe when I am in my death bed, I



I'm broke because I travel



Justine's Journey
Justine Kimond

A side from bills and debts, all of my money is mainly spent on my travels, food, and books. Some people wonder how I can afford to travel so much, even if I personally don't think I travel that much. I go on one trip a year maybe two if I am lucky. Some people think I am rich but what they don't know is that I have almost always less than \$1,000 in my savings account and I work two jobs. Some people say I am being irresponsible with my money, spending it mostly on plane tickets and food and books. Sometimes, even my parents disapprove but that's okay because I know deep down they are happy for me.

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Opinion

Just 17 days until Christmas

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

Since I've only been in Drayton Valley for about six months, this will be my first Christmas here.

I'm liking what I'm seeing so far.

Despite the cold, windy weather on November 20, I thoroughly enjoyed the half-hour long Christmas parade that took place in downtown Drayton Valley. It was a huge parade compared to what I've witnessed in other towns, as it featured entries ranging from financial institutions to farm machinery. And kids came to the Cruzers group horses and their riders, who also took part despite the freezing temperatures.

I know that the many elements of Christmas mean different things to different people. It's the fact that Christmas concerns that hour from December 24 to 25, even when my kids were in school. For others, it's the joy of decorating their

homes for the holidays, while still others anticipate getting together with family.

I was excited when I discovered that the 20th year in a row, as with the parade, I too, started small and now encompass some 97 homes with snowmen and light displays.

But it's not just our far-flung friends this Christmas. Instead of buying a puppy or kitten from a pet store this year, why

not visit the Cause for Citizens shelter and give one of them a forever home? The shelter is at capacity right now, with 10 older kittens and some 20 older cats available for adoption. That means I can't take in anyone until the ones I have now are adopted.

Believe me, the kittens are adorable, well-socialized and litter trained. I spent two hours on my day off last week cuddling them and had a great time doing it. There are grey kittens, tabbies, two who come with delicate pink ears and the palest blue eyes I've ever seen, a black one and so many more. It was hard to keep track of them all.

So have a great time getting ready for the holidays this year, and remember, if you overlook the holiday trees, Drayton Valley is blessed with so many recreational activities and venues, including the hottest coming up in January, you'll get back in shape in no time.

Cathy's Comments
Cathy Westman

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to Bernice Schell's Letter to the Editor regarding the Keystone pipeline and how it is being blocked by Warren Buffet's so-called "lobbying".

I was instantly struck by the first line in his letter which says, "What you want to hear from the mainstream media." I totally agree with his assessment regarding the pipeline. There is no such thing as the mainstream media. I totally agree with his assessment regarding the pipeline. There is no such thing as the mainstream media. I totally agree with his assessment regarding the pipeline. There is no such thing as the mainstream media.

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son that anyone cannot educate themselves about the situation. There is so much mainstream media that you can access through the internet and there is also an excellent TV station called Bannock (TV) 10. Now before you start throwing epithets of "communist" at me, I suggest you check it out. They have barnums in almost every corner city in the world, including New York and Washington and they interview many Americans whom you will never see on mainstream TV.

Mr. Schell wrote that "the media should help for this to be known to the general public" (regarding the pipeline issue), but I would say that the general public has to escape the media "programming" and start to inform themselves on the hundreds of issues that we are being bombarded with every day. The ability to think for yourself is a great tool against the indoctrination of mainstream media, and through that knowledge comes power. I will leave you with a quote from someone who understood the power of broadcasting all too well:

"What good fortune for those in power, that they do not think people do not think." Adolf Hitler

Yours truly,
Drayton Valley

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Living in interesting times

Submitted by Mark Smith

There is an old English proverb that is purported to be a translation of a Chinese saying which says, "May you live in interesting times."

Interesting times in this case is a unique way of saying "disruptive or dangerous or disturbing times."

It is, however, an accurate description of Alberta these days. These are not interesting times in the sense of physical danger or war. As we take time in November to remember the sacrifices of Canadians who have been and who presently are in military or peace keeping action around the world, we are grateful for the fact that we live in a democracy where the rule of law prevails and where "interesting times" is not code for violence and death.

Nonetheless we live in interesting times in Alberta. As Alberta faces a severe downturn in the economy, Albertans are faced with some very important economic decisions and dilemmas. For instance, how best can we continue to receive the services that we desire from our government

yet at the same time, how does government pay for those services?

The New Democratic government has finally presented its budget to the people of Alberta. In broad strokes they have chosen to continue spending and even increase government spending. This budget may continue to provide Albertans with a wide range of programs and services but it comes with a very steep price tag.

The ND government will not balance the budget until 2020 and by that time they will have accumulated a \$50 billion dollar debt. The government has clearly chosen the path of additional revenue to try to balance the budget. A variety of taxes have been increased to pay for the government spending and it is still not enough to balance the budget.

Additional revenue may come from a rebound in oil prices that some are predicting for 2017. But even then, oil prices are forecast to rebound only to the \$60 level and that still will not be enough to balance the budget and maintain current spending practices.

Another option is to levy a provincial sales tax which

we live in interesting times and it will be interesting to see where this ND government is going to go and what legacy that will leave the people of Alberta.

Mark Smith is the MLA for Drayton Valley-Devon Constituency.

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News

Santa's Workshop bursting at the seams

Cathy Weetman
Western Review

It appeared sometime on November 28 that Santa's Workshop was bursting at the seams

with the sheer amount of families attending the event, which took place at the MacKenzie Conference Centre. Nicole Norton and Lorna Pearson-Hoof, noted that Parent Link

sponsored and organized this year's event that included snacks, games, balloon sculptures, face painting, sparkly tattoos, colouring and crafts, and a visit to Santa's Workshop where children could

buy presents for \$1 and \$2 each. Of course, Santa was also on hand to have his photograph taken with all the boys and girls before Christmas. New this year was a ticket-based system for photographs with

Santa. Parents holding either an orange or grey ticket would have their number called to proceed to Santa. This allowed parents to look around the Workshop rather than standing in line.



Cathy Weetman Western Review
These children were busy playing with a mixture of sparkly Christmas sand at Santa's Workshop.



Cathy Weetman Western Review
Jayla Greenlee sits patiently while Jennifer Yerty gives her a nice, white sparkly tattoo of a star at Santa's Workshop held at the MacKenzie Conference Centre on November 28. Hundreds of parents and children attended the event that saw Santa having photographs taken with kids.



Cathy Weetman Western Review
These children were busy playing with a mixture of sparkly Christmas sand at Santa's Workshop.

Terrena Rizzoli, DD

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Divisions of Pembroke Memorial Chapel Ltd.

News

Town hosts youth holiday event

Justin Klendorn
Western Review

The Town of Drayton Valley is putting on *Fired Up for the Holidays* on Dec. 11. This free event, which includes activities like snow shoeing, graffiti art, and capturing the flag, was organized for youth aged 13 to 17. Anyone interested in attending the event is expected to show up at the town office at 4:30 p.m.

This is the first time the town is holding an event like this. Town of Drayton Valley programming coordinator Sheila Bailey said this event was created to

encourage youth to become mentors for younger children.

"Fired Up for the Holidays is for youth to let loose, have fun, and just be themselves," said Bailey. "We have seen a missing part in our events for youth so we really wanted to try it to get the youth out and create mentorships as well. So we will have mentors starting in this age group and then hopefully by the time the next age group comes through, then they will want to mentor the younger children as well."

The meeting place for the event is at the town office and youth will be transported to a secret location. Permis-

sion slips and identification cards are required and are to be presented before boarding the shuttle provided at the event.

"It is a secret location to sort of add to the surprise. We are meeting at the town office to take the shuttle out for 4:30 p.m. and it will go to until 9:30 p.m.," Bailey said. "Youth can just drop in (at the day of the event) but they do need a permission slip signed. They can bring their parents to sign the permission slips when parents drop them off or parents can pick up a permission slip at the town office or at the Complexes. They also need a piece of ID whether it is a

copy of a passport, a driver's license, or their student ID, they have to have that with them as well on that day."

Volunteers are also needed for the event and anyone interested can contact Bailey at (780) 514-2550. "We need help with volunteers for registrations and bag check. We also need help running the activities," said Bailey. "The activities that we have are snow shoeing, graffiti art, and glow in the dark capture the flag. We also need help with the dinner. We are going to do hotdog and marshmallows over the fire so we need help monitoring that as well."

Tomahawk School holds Christmas Extravaganza



Cathy Weetman Western Review
Top photo - "Don't trust the big man in the red suit" is what this boy seems to say after visiting Santa at Tomahawk School. (Lower c photo) 11-year-old Renleigh Mervonovich and 2-year-old Rydia Peffy are happy sitting on Santa's lap. (Bottom photo 1) Shaded glass artist Linda Davis poses with one of her favourite pieces at the trade show.

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News

Community games, supper at Aurora School

**Cathy Weetman
Western Review**

For the second year in a row, Aim for Success, Brighter Futures and a local Youth Action Team organized a community games, supper and movie night, complete with free popcorn held November 27.

Owing to renovations at Evergreen School this year, which put the gymnasium there out of commission, the event was moved to the gymnasium at Aurora School instead.

One of the organizers, Chris Lees from Aim for Success, said

the event was an opportunity for families and friends to get together and strangers to get to know one another, have some fun, take part in games and a potluck supper and enjoy a movie - all for free.

This year's movie was *Inside Out*, about a girl who has emotions

ranging from sadness to happiness and excitement, but loses some of them and has to find them again without some of her memories disappearing in the process.

The aroma of turkey wafted throughout the school during the afternoon while parents later

brought in everything from meatballs and mashed potatoes to salads and desserts.

Santa Claus also arrived before the potluck supper to spread some cheer - and candy canes - and have his photograph taken with the children.



Drayton Valley RCMP Constable Stephanie Leduc poses with her young friend, Kellan Bernowski, at the community games, supper and movie night held at Aurora School on November 27. Everyone from the community, both young and old, was invited to this delicious potluck supper, followed by the movie called "Inside Out".



Brighter Futures volunteers arranged for a whole bunch of games to keep children occupied throughout the evening. These boys are playing a game called snowballs and charcoal (made out of socks, not the real stuff) that they had to toss into some buckets.

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News

PRINCESS PARTY



Elsa, Anna, Snow White and Cinderella gathered at the Princess Party at the Scouts Hall on Nov. 20. Children took pictures, got autographs from princesses and got their face painted.



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Email - join.dv.cop@gmail.com
Web - www.draytonvalleycop.com

Drayton Valley C.O.P.
Annual General Meeting
Dec. 15, 2015 - 7 PM - Nelson Brothers Ltd, Office
Members and general public welcome

Lighting Up Lives CHILDREN'S WISH GALA 2015

The Children's wish Committee would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the community of Drayton Valley for showing your continued support with our Lighting Up Lives gala. Your generous spirit continues to grant wishes to sick children. We thank you for making a difference in the lives of our children.

We look forward to seeing you at our next gala on October 31, 2016.

News

Brazeau County wraps up budget discussions

Marnie Lulla
Western Review

Brazeau County is down three million dollars starting their budget discussions at \$27 million and reaching \$24 million in total reserves by the end of it.

The county started its budget discussions for 2016-2017 on Nov. 24 that continued for three days. Councilors spent most of their time discussing various road pricing to prioritize which they

should be part of the 10-year capital road plan.

A motion was passed to add RR 73 from Twp 502 to Hwy 624 for 2016 by Coun. Kara Westwood. North mile of RR 53 will also be done in 2016, costing \$700,000. RR 62 from Twp. 492 to Hwy 620 was also moved to next year while Meier Road from RR 73 to 50 St. has been moved to 2017.

There were some roads for which Brazeau County excluded itself out of the discussions

due to pecuniary interest, in most cases, due to owning land in the area. Twp 492 from Lindale Hill to Hwy 759, was one of these roads. Council passed a motion to carry on engineering work in 2016 to allow for culvert replacement and overlay in 2017.

CT SCANNER FUNDING

A motion was passed to receive the funding request of \$800,000 for information for CTADP campaign. Reeve and councilors "voiced" when they saw the number.

"We are assured that the county values the health of our residents as much as the arts," read the letter requesting the money.

NO MONEY FOR EDCD

A letter from the Town of Drayton Valley came forward requesting funding for the Early Childhood Development Centre (EDCD).

Councillors and administration recoiled the number of requests that the county has turned down by the town regard-

ing EDCD.

A motion was passed to decline the request once again and to reiterate county's most recent response and letting the town know the matter falls under provincial mandate and not municipal.

NEW TAX DATE

A motion was passed that council move the tax due date to be June 30 of each year. The motion was carried but opposed by Reeve Bart Guyon.

Police asks for help to end mail theft

Cathy Westman Western
Review

Breton/Thorsby RCMP are looking into a series of break-ins in Warburg, Winfield and Breton.

On November 30, post offices in the Village of Warburg and Hamlet of Winfield were entered and multiple mail boxes were pried open. Post office staff have already notified those with mail boxes affected.

Later that day, police discovered mail dumped on a country road south of Winfield in Wetaskiwin County. However, it was not the mail stolen from Warburg, Winfield and Breton.

On the same day, the Breton Village office and Library were broken into, where cash was stolen and items were damaged. Police are actively investigating these matters and ask that anybody

with information to contact the Breton/Thorsby RCMP.

If you who is responsible for this crime, please contact the Breton/Thorsby RCMP at 780-896-3520 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at Tip-Submitt.com. If your tip leads to an arrest, you may qualify for a reward. Tips provided by telephone or internet are anonymous and secure.

Fire crew saves a kitten

Marnie Lulla
Western Review

Drayton Valley/Brazeau County Fire Services were called out to a public service call on Nov. 28 to help with a kitten that was stuck on a spruce tree on Twp 502 and RR 82.

Members helped the cat, which looked scared, according to Deputy Fire Chief of Operation Murray Galvan.

"It was crying for sure," he said about the black kitten.

MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION

One person was transported to the Drayton Valley Hospital after a motor vehicle collision occurred between two vehicles near HW Pkwy School in Drayton Valley on Nov. 27 around 5:30 p.m.

MINOR FIRE INCIDENT

Fire crew was called out to a truck-engine fire incident on 50 St. on Nov. 28. Extinguishers weren't able to put the fire out that occurred in the engine of a truck and the fire

members were asked to help.

TWO FALSE CALLS

On Nov. 30 fire crew was called but cancelled for two false calls, one at a residence that involved cooking and another at a church due to testing of an alarm system.

KEEP THOSE HYDRANTS CLEAR

Fire department is requesting the public in Drayton Valley and Brazeau County to keep fire hydrants clear from snow in winter months.

A hydrant with snow piled up around it can possibly slow the department's response to water supply in an event that there was a fire.

"If the fire hydrant is on your property then we ask that you would shovel it out a metre around the entire hydrant. As well we are putting this out to businesses if they have hydrants," said Galvan.

The public is also advised to shovel a fire hydrant in their neighbourhood when residents shovel their driveway or sidewalk.

Take a Look Back - Drayton Valley.



(Drayton Valley & District Historical Society Archives)

One of the earliest photographs taken in this area. A geological survey of the river bed was undertaken in preparation for building a dam, preliminary work began in 1906 near the site of the present bridge. This photograph, taken in 1912, shows lengths of pipe which were driven into the river bed by the tripod in the background to extract cores of soil and gravel which were then sent in wooden boxes for study in Edmonton. The men are from the left, Jim Brownhill, William Pilkington, an unknown man and Jimmy Betts.

The elaborate plan was abandoned on outbreak of the first World War when money from a British consortium was withdrawn.

This collage sponsored by:

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WE'VE JUST BOOKED A TRIP TO A SUNNY DESTINATION! WILL I NEED TRAVEL VACCINATIONS OR MEDICATIONS?

Jennifer Winter
Pharmacist

There's a good chance that you might Gonerly. If the destination that you're travelling to is considered a third world country, it is likely that there will be some vaccinations that are recommended. You might need vaccination to protect you against diseases like Hepatitis A & B, typhoid, and yellow fever. There are also things that require extra care such as malaria. When you are ready to take preventive medication, they may even decide to bring medications with you on your trip for self-treatment of diseases such as traveler's diarrhea.

It is always a good idea to book a travel health consultation with a public health nurse, doctor, or pharmacist at least a couple of months before departure to ensure that you have all the vaccinations and medications that you might need to make your trip a healthy one. At Winter's Pharmacy, we book travel consultations, where we travelling, how long you will be travelling, the area you plan to go to, and your medical and vaccination history. We will also give you advice on other ways to make your trip a healthy one, including safe eating and drinking practices and mosquito

There are many great websites that you can check out if you're wondering if you might need health advice at or vaccination. You can find travel health advice at the website of the Public Health Agency of Canada (<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca>). If you have questions or would like to book an appointment with one of our travel-health pharmacists, please give us a call.

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HOW DO I GET A CHRISTMAS TREE PERMIT?

Christmas tree permits are available online at arcresources.com (search: Christmas Tree permit). Popular Ridge Store, our office in the Penn West building and Seely's General Store in Alder Flats.

Permits are five dollars and are required for all cutting on provincial land. Each permit entitles you to cut three trees up to 2.5 metres.

With proper planning and attention, the selection, removal, transport and set up of your tree can be a very enjoyable and safe family activity. Remember that Alberta's forests belong to everyone. Be sure not to cut your tree from private land.

- Points to consider -
- When you get home, cut 3-5 cm. off the butt and to suit winter description.
 - Fresh tree can use 1-2 L or more of water a day so water daily.
 - Keep your tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces, radiators and air conditioning.
 - When decorating, check electrical light cords for cracks or other where spots. Dispose of any worn cords as they might pose a fire risk.
 - Ensure your tree is stable. With pets and small children running about, it is often advisable to tie one or two guy wires from the tree to the wall.

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www.projecttld.com

WHAT OPTIONS WOULD BE AVAILABLE ON A TIGHT BUDGET?



Marlene S. Owen

Well, after all this we are at month 12 of ASK THE PROS. It has been quite the year of figuring out what types of tips to share with the public. At first, I thought it would be better to have a few months, it did get challenging. With some final feedback from a select market of readers, it has been nice to know that it has been met.

During the next months to come, individuals may be faced with some flooring needs and changes, and tight purse strings. There are always some options that we can help give a refreshed look, even on a limited budget. Trying to do small areas or projects to improve your home may be a wise choice. Whether finding the need to sell, or a small improvement to make a cozy, low affordable choice. There are some simple projects we can help you with, and help you get started on it to yourself projects that you can be happy with the final result.

Some of the floorings we can help with, are hardwood floors, and from back carpets can be easily done by the home owners with lots of success. Do not let someone get you totally down. When deciding on gifts this year, something simple in a backpack to complete an area of your home is a great idea. Please come in and check some of the new ideas, colours, and let us try to help take the complicated part of decision making out of your hands.

Want to know more... stop by for a visit and ask!

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HELP - CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Try as we might, during the holidays it's challenging to stay on top of the quantity and type of orders we are processing. There are just so many orders to process!

Start with portion control and updated selection from a variety of food groups. Don't think of the holidays as permission to throw your good habits.

Drink a large glass of water just before a big holiday dinner. If you are feeling, we're sorry, sorry! The warm liquid gives a feeling of satiety and may help you and your guests eat less.

Use a smaller plate and eat 15-20 (you won't need seconds)

Only eat to 80% full - in 20 minutes you will feel full

One meal of your plate with vegetables and salad. Get creative and dress them up with a holiday flare.

Get your turkey table portions of no more than 5-6 lbs. Turkey is a great host protein, but don't go overboard. Use turkey fat to add moisture to meat. The turkey stuffing recipe is a favorite and not to be missed, but a small amount to take your dinner menu line is probably plenty. Proceed with caution, as this dish often contains hidden droplets, butter, a lot of sodium and other self-defeating ingredients.

Good medical position. They often have cream, butter and salt lurking within. (You are having the stuffing anyway aren't you?) Instead of watching TV also move physically active games in down or eat - even a family walk!

Use the knowledge products of your favorite candies, cookies, pies and sweets, but take little and really enjoy the flavor.

Tree should be consumed to eat calories, which can add up fast when you're drinking them. You can also do this by choosing your brain with a lower alcohol content, one will allow content, and when your eye is set a good example to take by having Santa's drink plenty of fruit (instead of traditional cookies and milk).

If you are one of the pros of the above - Congratulations! And Merry Christmas!

What's the best way to get a Christmas tree? We have had many requests for pros in the following industries to participate.

- Plumber
- Realtor
- Electrician
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- Event Planner
- Mortgage Specialist
- Fashion Adviser

among others...

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WHAT DOES A SOCIAL WORKER DO?



Jamie Maronowich, RSW, RSW

As a social worker I often get asked what do I do, what is my job. I think that it is a very hard question to answer as a social worker's job can be very different depending on the setting you work in. As the social worker at the Primary Care Network I would be considered a medical social worker, which means that I work with people who are referred due to some health issue. I will then assess their physical, social, emotional, environmental, and financial needs and work as a support and advocate to try and help the person get those needs met. I am also working with other staff at the Primary Care Network to develop with other staff that will improve the health and well being of the people in the community as well as working with people individually. As a social worker it is also an important part of our role to work with the community to enhance its well being as a whole. As the Primary Care Network social workers I am connecting with larger groups and community agencies to improve social and health services in the community. One of the activities currently happening at the Primary Care Network to support the Drayton Valley community is we are having a Christmas Wish Tree from the Early Childhood Development Center to support the Homelessness and Poverty team. The tree will be in the waiting room of our offices until December 11, 2015.

Drayton Valley PCN
Address: 5217-59 St
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Email: info@draytonvalleypcn.ca
Hours: Mon-Thurs 8:30-4:30

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News

Road rager learns his fate in court

Cathy Weetman
Western Review

A man who was found guilty of uttering threats to cause bodily harm during a road rage incident in October of 2014 learned what his fate was in Drayton Valley Provincial Court on December 1.

According to facts read in Provincial Court on May 12 of this year, Troy David Thesen followed two teenage neighbours who live next door to his parents just outside of Drayton Valley, and threatened to kill one and harm the other after accusing them of damaging his truck and windshield with gravel. Following an investigation by the RCMP, Thesen was subsequently charged and appeared in court.

Judge Kirk MacDonald, who found Thesen guilty at the May 12 trial, ordered him to undergo a pre-

sentencing report, a psychological evaluation and a facts assessment. Sentencing was to have taken place in September.

At the sentencing on December 1, after reading his assessments, pre-sentencing report and psychological evaluation and victim impact statement, Judge MacDonald gave Thesen an opportunity to speak to the court.

"I just want to apologize to the court for my behavior and actions. Sometimes I don't know how to deal with situations," he said, adding that the road rage incident and its repercussions was a godsend because he had quit drinking and doing hard drugs and now owns his own home and has a job. He is also working on getting his anger and mental health issues under control with professional help.

His lawyer recommended to Judge MacDonald that Thesen serve a

conditional sentence, to be served by house arrest. However, the judge noted that several factors were taken into consideration before he can sentence someone.

"You don't often see a 30-year-old man twisting off in a fashion that you did to the complainants... The fact that they are considerably younger than you makes your behaviour to them all the more shameful. You were verbally threatening to them. Your actions have a profound effect on them and your family," admonished Judge MacDonald.

Judge MacDonald also noted that Thesen had a prior history of uttering threats for which he was convicted four times, and he also had three previous convictions for assault.

"In this particular case, house arrest doesn't properly reflect the seriousness of this," he told The-

sen, and sentenced him to 90 days in jail. Since Thesen has already served six days in jail, the sentence was reduced to 84 days. He was also placed on probation for two years.

Terms of his condition are to keep the peace and be of good behaviour, have no contact with the complainants and stay 100 metres away from them at all times, report to a probation officer when required or when he has a change of address, attend counselling, and take part in Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous twice a week. He is also not to possess and introducing drugs or alcohol and cannot enter any business whose primary purpose is to sell alcohol. He must also pay a \$100 Victim Fine Surcharge.

Thesen is to report to the Fort Saskatchewan jail to begin his sentence on December 11, to be served on the weekends.

Got a news tip?
Call the Western Review
editorial department at
780-542-5380



JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS – A TRADE SHOW



Cathy Weetman Western Review

The Drayton Valley Legion was an exceptionally busy place on November 27 as the Just in Time trade show was held there featuring everything from jewellery to hand-made bibs and slippers.

Got a news tip?

Call the Western Review editorial department at 780-542-5380

MLA Mark Smith would like to send
a big thank you

out to the Keyera Cynthia Gas Plant and Liquids
Transloading for their donations to the 1st
annual Basketball Constituency Cup.



Kevin Thebeau, Keyera Cynthia Gas Plant



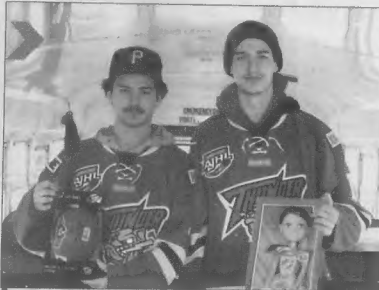
Eldon Fandrick, Liquids Transloading

Sports

780-542-5380
cathy.weetman@sunmedia.ca

POSTMEDIA

Busy weekend for Thunder hockey players



Cathy Weetman Western Review

Players from the Drayton Valley Hockey Team were out and about in front of the Wal-Mart store during the day and the arena in the evening gathering donated items for their Stuff-a-Bus event on November 28. The items will go to less fortunate families this Christmas. Pictured are (l-r) Jordan Tupper and Jordan McConnell with a few of the items donated that day.



Cathy Weetman Western Review

The Drayton Valley Thunder played back-to-back games on home ice November 27 and 28, coming through with a 2-1 shootout win over the Spruce Grove Saints on Friday night, followed by a 2-0 loss to the Whitecourt Wolverines on Saturday. The Thunder play again on home ice on December 6, at 7:30 p.m.

Max Centre hosts Grey Cup party

Cathy Weetman Western Review

The Max Centre in Drayton Valley was the place to be for the 103rd Grey Cup game between the Edmonton Eskimos and the Ottawa Red Blacks, which the Eskimos won with a 26-20 score. One of the event's organizers, Wayne Tournier, said the last time the Centre hosted a Grey Cup party was about eight years ago. This year, he added, admission to the party was a donation to the food bank. Drinks and food were also available at nominal prices. "We're a not-for-profit organization, so everything we fundraise for goes back to the youth of Drayton Valley," added Tournier. Attendees had no problem viewing the game, which was projected onto a 16 foot wide screen.



Football fans cheered for their favourite teams during the 103rd Grey Cup party held at the Max Centre on November 29. Let's hope this can turn into an annual event.

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Sports

BUSY SEASON FOR SHINE GYMNASTICS



Submitted photos
Shine Gymnastics students were busy having fun this season with various classes. New classes are coming up. Call Shine Gymnastics for more details.



Got a news tip?

Call the Western Review editorial department at 780-542-5308

DV Minor Baseball Association wins award at annual meeting

Drayton Valley Minor Baseball Association received a special award at the Alberta Minor Baseball Association's annual meeting held recently. Presenting the award for Medium Association of the Year was former Major League Baseball relief pitcher Duane Ward. Accepting the award on behalf of the local club was Arlene Gundersen.



Eleanor Pickup Arts Centre Presents



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Eleanor Pickup Arts Centre
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News

Agitated man throws computer on floor

Justin Kinodan
Western Review

On Nov. 30 at 5:30 p.m., RCMP received a call from a local pharmacy about a man who caused a disturbance at the pharmacy. The man came into the pharmacy looking for some medication that the pharmacy did not have. The man got agitated and threw a computer on the ground and left. RCMP is still investigating the incident to identify the man.

IMPAIRED DRIVING
The Drayton Valley RCMP would like to remind the public to not drink and drive. RCMP has received an increase in impaired driving reports. RCMP will be holding check stops and patrols during the month of December to keep the roads safe from impaired drivers. A vehicle was observed speeding at a parking lot on Nov. 28

at 2:30 a.m. An RCMP member pulled the car over. The driver failed the breath test and the RCMP member arrested the driver. The driver was charged with impaired driving and will appear in court.

On Nov. 28 at 3 a.m., RCMP received a complaint of possible gun shots fired at a local lounge. RCMP arrived on scene and saw a vehicle leaving the scene. The driver of the vehicle was identified by the RCMP and went to the driver's residence. RCMP did not locate anybody in the residence and saw the vehicle departing the residence. RCMP was able to apprehend the driver and found out that the driver was intoxicated. The driver was charged with impaired driving and flight from police. Investigations revealed that no shots were fired at any point in time.

STOLEN TRUCKS

An employee reported on Nov. 28 at 6 a.m. that a truck was stolen from their company's property. The vehicle was recovered on the same day.

On Nov. 30 at 6:15 a.m., RCMP received a call from a resident on 36 Street in town with regards to a stolen 2006 F350 truck with a license plate BCK 4248. The case is still under investigation.

Another report of a stolen vehicle was received by the RCMP on Dec. 2 at 8:19 p.m. The vehicle was reported stolen from Range Road 75. A burnt vehicle was recovered in a rural area in Brecken County and RCMP is investigating if it is the same vehicle.

STOLEN ITEMS

RCMP received a complaint from a resident on 50 Street in town on Dec. 2. The complainant said that tools from his vehicle parked at a local hotel

were stolen.

BREAK IN
On Nov. 28 at 8 a.m., RCMP received a call from a store in Rocky Rapids informing RCMP

that approximately 20 cartons of cigarettes were stolen after the suspects broke into the store through the back door. The stolen items cost \$2,500.

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PUBLIC NOTICE



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT NOTICE OF APPLICATION

In accordance with the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, Remediation Services Inc. has applied to Alberta Environment & Parks for an approval for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Brecken Class II Industrial Waste Landfill. The proposed industrial landfill will include design features of composite final system, leachate management system, surface water management system and groundwater monitoring system. The Remediation Services Class II Industrial Landfill will accept non-hazardous industrial wastes including oil wastes and soil containing hydrocarbons. This landfill will have a total capacity of 2,000,000 cubic meters and is proposed for annually accepting about 100,000 tonnes of non-hazardous waste with an estimated 20 year life span. The proposed Brecken Class II Industrial Landfill is located on Northwest Quarter of Section 12, Township 46, Range 6, West of the 91 Meridian in Brecken County. It is approximately 1.5 kilometers northeast of the Village of Brecken.

Pursuant to section 72 of the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, any person who is directly affected by the operation may submit a written statement of concern regarding this application. Failure to file a statement of concern may affect the right to file a Notice of Appeal with the Environmental Appeals Board. Such a statement of concern must be submitted to:

Director of Field Operations and North Saskatchewan Region
Alberta Environment and Parks
Regulatory Approval Centre
Main Floor, 8020 - 150 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6A 2B8
Fax: (780) 422-0154
E-mail: aep.appeals@alberta.ca

Within 30 days of the date of this notice. Please quote Application No. 001-535374 when submitting a statement of concern in regards to the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act application.

NOTE: Any statements filed regarding this application are public records which are accessible by the public.

Viewing of the application can be found on the Remediation website at www.remediation.ca. For any additional information please contact:

Remediation Services Inc.
Attention: Janet Ross, Vice President
Suite 300, 1550 67 Street SW
Calgary, AB T2M 1K3
Telephone: (403) 209-0004 Email: jross@remedi.ca

Skate with Santa at the Omniplex

Justin Kinodan
Western Review

Community members will have a chance to skate with Santa on Dec. 20 from 4:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. at the Drayton Valley Omniplex. Event participants will also have a chance to skate with the Drayton Valley Thunder players.

Events administrator Kim Verheul said this free event is a great opportunity for community members to get together for hot chocolate and ice skating fun.

The Drayton Valley hockey team are going to be out on the ice and we are also going to have Santa out on the ice. There is going to be hot chocolate for everybody that shows up and little gifts from Santa as a way of saying thank you. This event is sponsored by the Drayton Valley Omniplex, MacKenzie Conference Centre, Total Works Health and Fitness Centre, Drayton Valley Thunder, and Park Valley Pool, Verheul said.

This is the second time an event like this is being put on in town and is in line with the Drayton Valley Omniplex's free public skate initiative. Community members of all ages are invited to come out to the event. For more information about the event, contact the Drayton Valley Omniplex at (780) 514-2234.

LETTERS POLICY

To be considered for publication, letters to the editor must include the full name of the author for print and an address and phone number for verification.

Letters may be edited for length, content, grammar, spelling and libel. We will not print anonymous letters. As a local newspaper we focus on local events and our letters section is reserved for residents in our readership area.

Letters can be e-mailed to dvr@summedia.ca or dropped off at our office during business hours.

News

Here in Brazeau-Drayton: The Loppet

At the starting line. It always felt like I was rubbing shoulders with the right crowd. I was 21, an age then, 15 years ago, fairly fit, really fit but a little hefty in the middle, eighth-time annual participant and a mix of kids, families, senior citizens and more Nordic-looking folks in spandex, speed suits and Termino style shades. I was in Edmonton's Brazeau-Loppet, I was in the Blackfoot Recreation area east of Edmonton in February to take part in the Loppet, a cross-country ski race that attracts lots of skiers from across North America. My stomach was in knots because, for the eighth time, I was committed to the longest race of the Loppet, 54 kilometers, and going solo.

Drayton Valley and the Brazeau region hosts a fantastic annual cross-country ski Loppet and the first annual Loppet event is coming up January 18 and 19, 2016 at the Pembina Nordic Ski Club just down Township Road 464 very near Drayton Valley. This Loppet will have organized ski distances for the Saturday and Sunday of 1, 2.5, 13 and

54 kilometers. So you can go backward the two days and ski to your heart's content.

Although the term "Loppet" originated in Scandinavia 500 years ago. Today, the Loppet in Västerås, Sweden is the oldest, the longest and the biggest (in terms of participants). A cross-country ski race in the world, one skier is taken to commemorate the same trail the king of Sweden (Gustav Vasa... hence the name VasaLoppet) skied about 500 years ago. Today about 15,000 people take part in the VasaLoppet and millions watch on TV.

Vasa Loppet's history is also a part of Swedish history. I love this history as I have a Swedish heritage. The Loppet is exciting and historically important, with everything from bloodbaths to friend ship, Nordic drinks and songs.

The first Vasa Loppet was carried out as early as 1521 by Gustav Vasa who eventually became the first king of Sweden. After escaping prison in Denmark for speaking out against the Danish king, who ruthlessly ruled the Swedes,

Vasa returned to Sweden to urge the farmers and villagers to revolt. At this time the Danes beheaded his father and brother and a hundred other Swedes.

During his flight from the brutal Danish king he began to lead the uprising against the Danish occupation forces. And at one point he had to escape on cross-country skis towards Norway from Danish pursuers. He skied 50 km in one day.

Gustav Eriksson eventually united the realm, defeated the Danes and became Sweden's first king, better known under the name Gustav Vasa. In other words, the Loppet in Vasa, Sweden is not only the starting point for the world's largest endurance race it is also the starting point for the history of the whole country, my Grandmother's ancestral home country.

What is a Loppet today? It is a great gathering of skiers who ski on a specially groomed trail either classic (diagonal stride) or free (skating technique) at various distances. Enormous amounts of food and drink are consumed during the event. There is a party and celebratory banquet with awards and prizes

and a dance. And that is what's going to happen right here in Brazeau County/Drayton Valley this coming January 18 and 19.

Amazingly, 15 years ago, there was no carriage when the place blast exploded through the forest and we go under way. The apex skiers speed off, leaving ample space for me, the kids and seniors and families to enjoy the boreal landscape of spruce trees, frozen lakes

and vistas of the North Saskatchewan River valley in Eagle Point Provincial Park. And seniors are skimming along, wily, where cheering volunteers provide energy drinks and snacks.

I was wheezing by the time I made the finish line. All I managed down the home stretch, the trail becomes busy with skiers of all ages, all kicking and gliding toward personal bests. Volunteers and organizers greeted each skier with a megaphone as they crossed the finish line, and cowbells rang long into the afternoon. For a moment, it felt like I was with my Scandinavian ancestors.

And that is what's going to happen right here in Brazeau-Drayton area this coming January 18 and 19. Register at www.vasa2016.ca for the Pembina Nordic Ski Loppet and 40th Anniversary banquet.

Prize Lure is the Executive Director for the Eagle Point and Blue Rapids Park Council. Visit them online at www.parkcouncil.com

After the nerve-racking start, I realized that the most exciting, the Loppet has little to do with competition. I fell into the exhilarating skate-riding rhythm that comes with a combination of perfect snow conditions and perfect temperatures. Occasionally I would join a group of similarly paced skiers and we seemed to fly along as only one can do on cross-country skis, urging each other on the uphill and whooping on the down.

The Pembina Ski Club trails follow a wooded corridor at times opening up with sweeping views of the steep slopes

and vistas of the North Saskatchewan River valley in Eagle Point Provincial Park. And seniors are skimming along, wily, where cheering volunteers provide energy drinks and snacks.

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News

The efficiencies of pipelines

After a 7 year battle to have the Keystone Pipeline approved, U.S. President Barack Obama, announced that it would not get the approval of his administration. The Keystone Pipeline was a critical step forward to getting more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day from the Alberta Oil Sands which would connect with existing pipelines to specialized refineries along the Texas Gulf Coast.

The obvious question is, now what? How does Alberta connect with the next step in the process for getting the product to market? The movement of products like oil creates an added cost to the production which in turn determines the viability of production. In times when prices are low, such as now, transportation of crude will undoubtedly factor into its viability. The assertion that inefficiencies in the movement of product will not affect employment in the energy sector is completely beyond reason.

The argument for some has been to point to the development of refineries capable of processing our own Oil Sands raw bitumen, theories like these are plagued with solving the most important step in building a refinery - cost. The other key factor in this equation, and probably the most important factor, is who pays for it?

Another important factor in the refinery discussion that seems to be left out of the conversation is the finished product. When you take into account that cost estimates for the 50,000 barrels per day Sturgeon refinery project are around \$8.5 billion, the cost of a refinery with a capacity to handle 600,000 barrels per day would be simply cost prohibitive. There is also another important question that comes to mind when the subject of refineries comes up: how do they propose to move the finished product to market? It's the same logistics problem that exists with finished product as with the raw product.

The role of government in the market place is to create an environment that encourages and responsible development of our non-renewable energy resources. Describing Alberta as the "embarassing cousin that no one wants to talk about," is not fostering an environment that will lead to investor confidence to invest, but that's precisely what Alberta's Premier did.

When informed of the rejection of the Keystone pipeline Alberta's Premier said that she was disappointed that President Barack Obama called Alberta an "idiot," while announcing the rejection of its application? Being disappointed in characterizing our oil as "dirty" should be overshadowed by the implications to an industry that employs more than any other in the province.

The first responsibility of Alberta's Premier should be the financial stability of the province: social programs and government services need revenues to operate. The lion's share of revenue is generated in Alberta through personal and business income tax, along with energy revenues. Unemployed Albertans and non-profitable businesses do not have the ability to contribute to revenue streams.

Opposition members in the Alberta Legislature have their eye squarely on efficient transportation through pipelines of Alberta's revenue-generating energy resources and understand the industries contribution of these industries to Alberta. Raising royalty rates in the current market and not supporting efficient transportation will inevitably contribute to rising unemployment and funding cuts to social programs.

The above article was co-completed by a small group of Official Opposition M.L.A.s who met, worked together to talk through a legislative policy issue. As part of the process, a short commentary is completed and then filed.

Evolving Community: Have a healthy Christmas

As the holidays approach, what is occupying your frame of mind? Food? Presents? Spending time with family? A break from work? I think about all those things. I also think about lights and caroling, tobogganing and skating, snowflakes and cozy fires, and watching the old CBC "special" "How The Grinch Stole Christmas." I love Christmas. Christmas is a time to let your inner child out. It's a time to relax, at least, we envision it that way. It's a time to let your guard down and revel in the joy of festivities and indulging in all the things you save only for that one special time of year.

One of the many things people save for that time of year is indulging in sweets. They're blue in the face. I do this myself. I mean, come on, you have to at Christmas, right? Right? Well, instead of indulging and then regretting it come January, why not indulge in a healthier way? Why not indulge in a way that doesn't compromise your long term health? I'm not going to tell you to eat apples or grapes instead of cookies and tarts. It is

Christmas, after all. But what you can do is bake with far less sugar and with healthier ingredients. I've written before about replacing sugar with natural alternatives that taste the same, yet don't affect your insulin levels. Xylitol is my go-to sugar replacement. With Xylitol, a natural product derived from birch bark or corn, you can replace sugar at a one-to-one ratio, using it in all your favourite recipes just as you would sugar. And the best part is, Xylitol is actually good for you! I make my own toothpaste with Xylitol as well. I'm sure you've heard I've been doing for years. The only alternative you can use a coconuts sugar. Xylitol is closer in taste and texture to sugar but coconuts sugar is nice for a change. When I bake, I replace about half the sugar with Xylitol. Both of these items are available at local health food stores.

Another way to bake health is to use whole grains, natural, and organic ingredients. Don't buy anything pre-packaged. I make everything from scratch. The usually works out to be cheaper in the long-run. And replacing refined white flour with whole wheat or spelt - my personal favourite - allows you to benefit nutritionally from your sweets.

Using 100% organic ingredients will ensure that you're not putting harmful chemicals into your body, in addition to supporting growing practices that don't harm our beautiful planet. It's true, organic products are more expensive, a problematic situation on all fronts. However, isn't your health worth the extra cost? And what you don't spend now on your health, you'll likely spend down the road on health care. In my opinion, there's no reason good enough not to eat a 100% natural and organic diet because the price you pay later in life is just not worth it.

Another thing you can do to take care of your health over the holidays is balance out the sweets and liquor with water and vegetables. You don't need to give up the goods, but do ensure that you're still eating lots of vegetables and drinking lots of water. This will help flush out the bad stuff, and keep you hydrated (sugar is dehydrating).

So this Christmas, enjoy your self. Enjoy the time with family and friends, enjoy the music and holiday spirit, and indulge a little. Just make sure you're still taking care of your health. Christmas and happy holidays from myself and all the towns staff!



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CLOTHING SWAP



Marilyn Lulla Western Review
A clothing swap took place recently at the Frank Macdonald High School organized by a local resident Marlene Gardiner. She said she would host more clothing swaps depending on the interest of people in the event.



**THE MEN'S LOCAL 888 and
THE MEN'S MULTI-CULTURAL YOUTH SOCIETY
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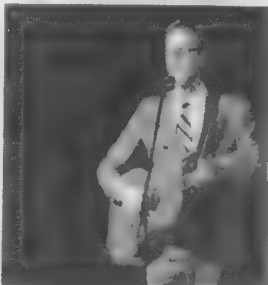
News

MACKENZIE CONFERENCE CENTRE RECEIVES 6 MINUTE WARNING



Cathy Westman Western Review
The a capella group from Edmonton called 6 Minute Warning, performed at the first of two Jingle Bell Balls held at the MacKenzie Conference Centre on November 27. The balls are held yearly for local corporations to enjoy a Christmas party together under one roof, with food and entertainment provided.

DAVID MYLES PERFORMS AT EPAC



Cathy Westman Western Review
It looked to be a sell-out crowd for entertainer David Myles, who performed at the EPAC Centre on November 27. He sang a wide variety of songs ranging from Christmas carols to a rant about his ex-girlfriend.

Questions about electricity and
natural gas services? Contact the UCA.



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Christmas
GIFT GUIDE

Special Feature by
Western Review

Drop off gifts at the Drayton Valley Municipal Library (downtown) and browse the library while you wait.

Drop off gifts at the Drayton Valley Municipal Library (downtown) and browse the library while you wait.

More information
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\$5 Santa Photo Prints!

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DECEMBER SPECIALS

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News

BAKE SALE AT AURORA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Justine Kimoden Western Review
Students at Aurora Elementary School held a bake sale on Dec. 2
for the benefit of one of the school's families.

Evergreen Christmas Market

Saturday December 19th
10:00am-2:00pm
Omniplex Lobby &
Curling Rink Lounge
Pictures with Santa
Free Hot Chocolate
and Family Skate from
11:00am-1:30pm
Old Fashioned Horse
Drawn Wagon Rides
and carols

Sponsored by the
Drayton Valley & District
Agricultural Society

2015 Christmas Crossover

C - \$42.95
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O - \$19.95

Thomas Kinkadee Christmas

Thomas Kinkadee's country

Nothing declares the arrival
of the holiday season like
bringing home the Christmas
tree, and nothing brightens
the holiday season like
rich red roses and snowy
blooms, hand-delivered
with a Christmas keepsake
the whole family will love!

Inspired by the art of Thomas
Kinkadee, the windows of this
hand-sculpted, hand-painted
country cabin glow warmly
for an extra festive look.

THOMAS KINKADEE
Painter of Light

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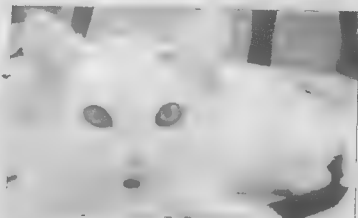
teleflora's Sparkling Winter Wonderland

teleflora's Snowy Cabin for Bouquet

teleflora's Country for Bouquet

News

CAUSE FOR CRITTERS PET OF THE WEEK



Are you seeking wisdom? I have seen and experienced a lot in my short life so far - and I have gained wisdom beyond my age. I have learned that with a positive attitude one can overcome a lot of obstacles in my journey. I would be happy to share my insights and my heart with you if you are interested. You can find me, Adhoni, and my feline companions at the Cause for Critters animal shelter. Day 83-5430-55 St., www.causeforcritters.com or 780-538-7287.

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 DRAWING: DEC 4th - JAN 4th

School Notebook

ALIBORA

Three Alibora students have started Auction bid sheets will be in the office and the auction will be on December 10th at 1:30. The items are large Christmas decorations which are in view in the lobby. The winners of each item will be contacted by phone. Half of the money will stay with the Alibora family and half towards the Alibora Fine Arts Program.

Grade 6 students had a blast at the Legislature! They viewed the Magna Carta, visited the new interpretive centre, experienced a map of all energy resources in Alberta, witnessed how citizens exercise their rights and were proudly introduced at the Assembly by our MLA Nick Smith.

Please come and enjoy the Christmas Concert presentations on Tuesday, December 8th, 7:00 and 7:30 on Wednesday, December 9th at 1:00 and 1:30.

Tuesday, December 8th - KS, ATL, IM, 2B, 2C, 3DP, 4L, 5B, 6B (two performances) - 1:00 & 1:30

Wednesday, December 9th - KMW, 1BB, 1SC, 2B, 2C, 3B, 3CP, 4L, 5B, 6B (two performances) - 1:00 & 1:30

On Friday, December 11th the staff and students will be celebrating school spirit by wearing all things purple and blue. Remember to dress up "Purple" for this fun occasion!

It's a Leisure Swim in on Tuesday, December 15th. Students will be invited to swim from the pool. Remember to send a towel and bathing suit on this day.

LUNCH PROGRAM: There will be NO lunch program after December 11th. Please remember to send a lunch for the last week of school in December 11th to 15th and the first week of school in January (16th to 18th).

The lunch program will start up again on January 11th. Look for the "Lunch" sign coming out soon! Also, parents, please be advised that the lunch program is not available on days when the buses are not running.

SANTA'S ANONYMOUS DONATIONS: We are accepting Santa's Anonymous and Toys Bank donations for our "Give Where You Live" Campaign. Please bring new, unwrapped items such as clothing or toys and non-perishable food items. Many local families benefit from this worthy cause. We are accepting donations until Wednesday, December 17th. See us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Alibora>

ALIBORA

November was another amazing month at Alibora School. Here are some highlights:

On November 10th we hosted our Remembrance Day ceremony in the gymnasium. We were honoured to be joined by several special guests.

Students in grades 6-8 completed their first round of Career and Life, "Anology Foundations at Seba's" each School. They were also joined by students from Jamulhask School and Wabamun School. Students participated in some amazing hands-on learning activities. Some of the CTF classes also had field trips and guest speakers.

Valley season came to an end. We would all like to congratulate the Jamulhask 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade boys and girls volleyball teams on successful seasons and for being excellent representatives for the school.

Although December is the month with the fewest school days, it is still one of the busiest. Throughout the month of December the grade 9 class will be selling Candy Canes to raise money for their Year End Trip. Candy canes cost \$0.50 each and will be distributed December 17th.

Thursday, December 10th we will be hosting a Turkey Dinner at noon in the gymnasium. This is a free event open to all members of the community and has been graciously sponsored by the Alibora Community Church. Please drop off the RSVP in the office so we know how many people will be in attendance.

Also on December 10th Report Cards will be coming home.

Finally on December 10th we will be having our first Community Movie of the year - Hotel Transylvania 2. Doors open at 4:00. All children must be accompanied by an adult. There is a concession available. Tickets are \$2 at the office and \$1 at the door.

Archery is under way. The Finsville Eagles Archery team will be practicing Mondays and Wednesdays at lunch in the gymnasium.

The Finsville Eagles Soccer team is preparing for the Polar Lap taking place in Edmonton on December 27th, 28th. Practice takes place in the gymnasium at lunch recess on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Schedule will be available mid-December.

Christmas Concert is Thursday, December 17th. Doors open at 6:00. Donations for the food bank are appreciated.

December 18th is the last day of classes before the Christmas break. Classes resume January 4th, 2016.

January 19th All Finsville school students are members of the Finsville Eagles Finsville Eagles display the virtues of PRIDE in their endeavors and are ambassadors for Finsville School and Parkland School Division as they pursue their goals. Our virtue for the month of December is Dignity.

1) - Dignity: Demonstrating dignity means you treat others with respect regardless of a person's age, race, language, religion, opinion or disability. To show dignity, you treat others fairly and kindly. It also means that you show self-control and try not to harm others or their property.

Members of the Finsville School community value these virtues as positive contributing factors to education, citizenship, social responsibility, and well-being. The Eagle is the symbol for PRIDE.

If you should ever have any questions, comments, concerns or concerns please feel free to email (tworhington@psd70.ab.ca) or call me (780-777-8111) at any time.

Les Werthington, Principal Finsville School "Our students get our best!" Parkland School Division "Where the world opens up"

Congratulations to the following students who received "Principal's Honor Roll" awards at the Junior High Awards Assembly held December 2nd.

Grade 7: Breanna Becker, Emma Bock, Mothen Enck, Janna Bock, Thomas Harrison, Hailey Kellin, Shawn Kofrand, Kiana LaForest, Missou Lee, Tavin Lemmermeyer, Gwyneth Liz, Janna LaForest, Rebekah Pettigrew, Lene Swendsen, Janna Thompson, Camilla Vazella and Sabrina Vazella.

Grade 8: Emily Auchter, Natalie Barnard, Emma Bergetts, Davison Bower, Kaitlyn Chopka, Lucas Emping, Janna, Andrew Fontaine, Cody Home, Nevaeh Magnusson, Tey Nivola, Grace Schneider, Koen van der Horst and Amber Ito.

It's that time of year again! On Monday, December 7th and Tuesday, December 8th we will be celebrating our 2015 Christmas concert. Things are a little

different this year. Instead of having all classes sing on one night, we have decided to split the concert up into two nights. This decision was made to reduce the growing number of students and parents that attend the concert.

Both concert dates will start at 7:00pm. On the first night (December 7th) we will have the kindergarten classes up to grade 2 perform, and on the second night (December 8th) we will have grades 3-6 perform.

Please have students ready and in their classrooms no later than 6:30. Students are asked to dress up for the concert, but please no costumes.

As an additional fundraiser for the Shark Park, we will be setting up an Envelope Wall. Envelopes will range from \$1-\$200. If you choose to make a donation, grab an envelope with the amount you would like to donate, put your donation in the envelope, write your name on it and pin it back up on the wall.

It is the giving season! This December we will be collecting toys for the Food Bank until December 10th. We will also be collecting toys and clothing for Santa's Toybox and the Giving Tree will be up in our front foyer.

School Council News & Events

Shark Park News

Paraglider Voucher Fundraiser: \$10.00 per Voucher for Medium Paraglider: \$7.00 from each voucher sold will go to the Shark Park. Honored at any Paraglider Voucher across Canada!

Important Reminders: Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for Alberta weather. Our playground can be quite windy. This student's need to be well prepared in case a bus should

break down. Please label all jackets, lunch bags, shoes, hats, boots (visibly on the outside) and snow pants. We often have incidences of students wearing the wrong footwear. It will be outdoors unless weather drops below -20.

Please ensure that you use the crosswalk when you drop off your children. We want our students to be safe at all times.

There is a Handicapped parking spot on the South side of the school in the front of the school. It is marked with this paint. Please make sure that you are not parked in this spot, as this spot needs to be available for those who require it.

Please pull into a parking spot (where there is NO yellow paint) when dropping off or picking up students in the back or front parking lots of the school.

Office hours are 8:00-4:00. Parents please make sure you call the office or email lelewerthington@psd70.ab.ca if your child will be late or absent. If you have reached the answering machine please leave a message as staff are unavailable to answer the phone.

St. Anthony school council wanted to take a moment during that busy moment of giving, to thank those who contributed to the success of our annual Winter Wonderland Fair. With the help of many sponsors, volunteers, participants and guests the Winter Wonderland Fair was a huge success. We wish you all very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the staff and students of St. Anthony School a tremendous "Thank You" to our Parent Council for all the work involved in making our Winter Wonderland Fair a huge success.

News from the Shark Park: There will be no Running Club for the month of December. It will resume in January. Basketball tryouts have begun and teams will be selected in January.

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GET UP TO

PLUS

ON MOST 2016 RAM 1500 TRUCKS

IN TOTAL DISCOUNTS

INCLUDING \$1,000 HOLIDAY

LET IT TOW. LET IT TOW. LET IT TOW.

GET \$7,500 IN TOTAL DISCOUNTS ON 2016 RAM HEAVY DUTY

BEST-IN-CLASS TOWING*

31,210 LB

TOWS UP TO 3½ TONNES

MORE THAN THE COMPETITION

RAMTRUCKOFFERS.CA

News

Risks with checking for information on social media

Dear Working Wise,

I check the Facebook profiles of potential employees to find out what they are really like, but I've heard that I shouldn't do it. Why not? Is it against the law?

Signed, Wondering

Dear Wondering,

There is no law against using social media to perform employment background checks.

However, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Alberta (OIPC) has cautioned Alberta organizations to ensure they are not violating the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA) when conducting background checks using social media.

PIPA is Alberta's private sector privacy legislation that governs the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information by organizations.

The OIPC offers a set of guidelines to help Alberta organizations understand their responsibilities under PIPA when using social media to collect personal information for employment checks.

The guidelines include risks, advice and tips employers may want to consider before conducting social media background checks.

Using social media for employment background checks is risky, because you can't limit the amount or type of information that you collect.

Privacy laws require organizations to only collect information that a reasonable person would consider appropriate in the circumstances.

Social media searches can reveal too

much personal information, including information that is irrelevant to the job. Information about other people, and information such as gender, age, race, ethnicity, marital status, religious affiliation, etc., which are protected grounds under the Alberta Human Rights Act.

Collecting personal information that is not relevant for the purpose of recruiting an employee may be unreasonable under PIPA, especially when there are other ways to get the information that you need, including resumes, references, and job interviews.

A second risk is that the information you collect from social media sites may not be accurate. PIPA requires that organizations take steps to collect accurate personal information.

Social media sites are not guaranteed to be accurate. Photos may be falsified and information may fall out of date. There is also the chance that you may review the wrong person's profile.

TechCrunch.com found there were 76,000 John Smiths on Facebook back in 2009 when Facebook had only 200 million users. Today, Facebook has 1.5 billion active users.

The guidelines developed by the OIPC cover a few other risks including having consent from job applicants to search their social media profiles.

Even with consent, you may find it difficult to justify the legitimate business purpose of reviewing a job applicant's social media pages. And, under PIPA, individuals can withdraw their consent at any time.

The OIPC advises that Alberta organ-

izations need to carefully assess their ability to be compliant with PIPA prior to using social media sites for background checks.

For more information and advice, visit the OIPC website at oip.ab.ca and read their Guide For Social Media Background Checks.

Do you have a work-related question? Send your questions to Working Wise, at charles.strachey@oip.ab.ca. Charles Strachey is a manager with Albert Human Services. This column is provided for general information.



Photo courtesy jakubczak iStock

Do's and don'ts for looking potential employee information

GOOD HEALTH ISN'T CONTAGIOUS. INFLUENZA IS.

CHANCES ARE YOU WILL BE EXPOSED TO INFLUENZA THIS SEASON.

Protect Yourself. Protect Others. Get immunized.

Alberta's influenza immunization program is ongoing.

Influenza immunization is available, free of charge, to all Albertans six months of age and older.

Upcoming Immunization Clinics in Your Area

DATE:	TIME:	LOCATION:
Thursday, December 17	2 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Drayton Valley Community Health Centre, 4110 50 Avenue Drayton Valley

Please bring Alberta Health Care Card. Short sleeves recommended.

whyhchance.ca www.ah.ca/influenza Call Health Link at 1-877-307-4636

Alberta



Photo submitted

Resident Cheryl Galevin donated \$300 to go towards the Drayton Valley/Brazee County Outdoor Rink.

ONLY FROM DEC 4th - JAN 4th

WIN 1 OF 30 VEHICLES

VALUED UP TO \$35,000

OR

FROM \$1,000 TO \$10,000

IN CASH CREDITS

TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OR LEASE ON ANY 2015 OR 2016 CHEVROLET

2015 CRUZE LS 1SA

0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 84 MONTHS*

+ \$2,000 TOTAL CASH CREDIT* (INCLUDES \$1,000 CONNECT & WIN BONUS)

MINIMUM **\$4,000** IN CASH CREDITS (INCLUDES \$1,000 CONNECT & WIN BONUS)

2015 EQUINOX LS AWD

0% PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 84 MONTHS*

+ \$2,000 TOTAL CASH CREDIT (INCLUDES \$1,000 CONNECT & WIN BONUS)

MINIMUM **\$5,200** IN CASH CREDITS ON OTHER MODELS (INCLUDES \$1,000 CONNECT & WIN BONUS)

2015 SILVERADO

0% FINANCING FOR 84 MONTHS*

MINIMUM **\$11,000** TOTAL CASH CREDIT ON SELECT MODELS ON SILVERADO 2500HD/3500HD (INCLUDES \$1,000 CONNECT & WIN BONUS)

ALBERTACHEVROLET.COM

ALL 2015 AND 2016s COME WITH CHEVROLET COMPLETE CARE: 2 YEARS/25,000 KM COMPLIMENTARY OIL CHANGES / 5 YEARS/100,000 KM POWERTRAIN WARRANTY / 5 YEARS/100,000 KM CORROSION WARRANTY

CHEVROLET

News

Crafting a gift in time for Christmas



Cathy Westman Western Review
Craft-a-Gift participant Natalie Peace is busy making a growth chart as a Christmas gift at the Omniplex lounge on November 29.



Cathy Westman Western Review
Kim Verheul took some time out of her busy schedule to try the painting class at the morning Omniplex Craft-A-Gift session.

Cathy Westman Western Review
Hand-made gifts always mean something special for both the giver and receiver, and this year will be no exception for residents of Drayton Valley and area.
Crafters of various ages spent part of November 29 at the crafting lounge making gifts for Christmas during an event called Craft-A-Gift.

Sheila Bailey, Programing Co-ordinator with the Town of Drayton Valley, said the event was organized by an ad hoc committee of volunteers.
"This is the first time we're doing it and it's going great," said Bailey. Attendees were able to make growth charts, bath bombs, miniature turtles, painted wooden blocks and enjoy a painting class throughout the day.

The South Capital of Canada
Veld, Jones & Veld Auction Co. Ltd.
101 Ave. 15 North of Camille Rd.
Drayton Valley, Alberta T0A 1A0
Tel: 780-542-5380

Market Report DECEMBER 2, 2015
On Wednesday, December 2, 2015, 977 head of cattle went through our pens.
TOTAL: 3972

DE 12 cows	98.00 - 1.00
DE 13 cows	98.00 - 1.00
Good Holstein cows	87.00 - 91.00
Medicine Holstein cows	80.00 - 87.00
DE 14 cows	115.00 - 1.00
DE 15 cows	115.00 - 1.00
DE 16 cows	115.00 - 1.00
DE 17 cows	115.00 - 1.00
DE 18 cows	115.00 - 1.00
DE 19 cows	115.00 - 1.00
DE 20 cows	115.00 - 1.00

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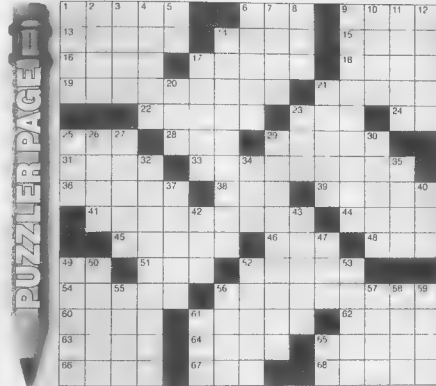
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- PUZZLER PAGE 1**
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SUDOKU

Here's How It Works
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a Sudoku puzzle, you must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numbers clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you have, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle.

ANSWERS
1. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 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ROBERT JAMES SHAW
 September 12, 1940
 November 25, 2015

On Wednesday, November 25, 2015, Robert James Shaw of Drayton Valley passed away peacefully at the age of 76 years, surrounded by his family.

He leaves to mourn his loss and cherish his memory, his wife of 54 years, Vivian, two daughters, Barb (Mitch) Reimer and Sandy (Solomon) Tackie, one son, James (Orville) Shaw, nine grandchildren, Phillip, Joshua, Matthew and Shawn Reimer, Lindsay and Madeline Shaw, Nicole (Joel) Eisan, Jamie (Nathan) Edwards, and Jackie (Brad) Whittall, four great grandchildren, Dax and Cooper Eisan and Nash and Hadley Edwards, two sisters, Kitty (Cyde) Tuger, Donna (Lloyd) Remus, brother in law Fred (Kay) Androschuk, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Robert was predeceased by his parents James and Velma Shaw, his son Reginald and his mother and father in law, Alex and Orenia Androschuk.

A Celebration of Life was held on Thursday, December 3 at 1:00 p.m. at Drayton Valley United Church, with Rev. Sally Boyle officiating.

If friends so desire memorial donations may be made to Alberta Cancer Foundation, 11560 University Ave., Edmonton, AB T6G 1Z2 or to the Alberta Diabetes Foundation, NPF-East 1-420 1A University Campus, NW, Edmonton, AB T6G 9Z9.

DRAYTON VALLEY FUNERAL SERVICES
 are in care of arrangements
 780-542-3511
 Online condolences
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Gerald Stahl
 Nov. 2, 1939 - Dec. 12, 2013

We think of you in silence
 No one may see us weep
 But many silent tears are shed
 When others are asleep

We know your wisdom left u
 Memories we hold dear
 We know your resting peacefully
 We know your always near

Loving and missing you so much.
 Your wife Nadine, Your children,
 (Shayne (Rosanne) Stahl)
 (Saylor (Kevin) Thebeau)
 (Travis (Aimee) Stahl)
 (Tobi (Kevin) Stiwiski) and Families

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Careers

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Reporting to the CAO, Brazeau Seniors Foundation the Finance Manager will be responsible for ensuring financial management of the Foundation's funding. (32 hours per week).

Main Responsibilities:

- Supervise and participate in the preparation of all financial statements, Monthly reports, Quarterly Reports to Government, budget preparation and regular reconciliations. (Payroll accounts including benefit and pension plans).
- Direct the maintenance of accounting records to show receipts and expenditures.
- Direct the maintenance of general and subsidiary ledgers, accounts receivable, Revenue and expense distributions, Establish/Maintain financial controls.
- Coordinate preparation of internal audit materials and financial records for Auditors.
- Work with Management to update policies, procedures & best practices.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The accounting skills and knowledge necessary to perform these tasks are achieved through an accounting designation and experience within a government environment or other organization that uses departmental accounting. Supervisory experience would be an asset.

You may submit your resume to:
Sheila Keller, CAO
Brazeau Seniors Foundation
5208 - 47th Avenue
Drayton Valley, AB T7A 1N7
Fax: (780) 542-2765
Email: info@brazeau.ca

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Deadline for applicants is January 2, 2016 or until a suitable candidate is found. Visit www.cardium.com for a full job description. Please ensure the specific position is clearly defined on cover letter. To apply for this position please send resume and cover letter to the attention of: Joy Knyta, Human Resources Coordinator, Brazeau County, jknyta@brazeau.ab.ca

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BRAZEAU COUNTY IS CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR A DYNAMIC INDIVIDUAL TO ASSUME THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A LONG RANGE PLANNING OFFICER. This is a one year term position.

Job Summary:

This position is responsible for statutory planning policy and land use bylaw administration related matters in the County. It takes a lead role in statutory planning document review and supports a wide variety of planning functions including expertise in review consultation and review of the Municipal Development Plan, Inter-Municipal Development Plan, Hamlet, Area Structure Plans, Neighborhood Plans and land use redesigning. It undertakes relevant research, carries out presentations to Council, prepares reports, and makes recommendations to Council and Senior Management.

Required Qualifications:

- Post-secondary education in a land use planning, geography, or municipal government field is required with a Master's Degree from an accredited program preferred; or an equivalent combination of post-secondary education and experience.
- Membership in the Canadian Institute of Planners is preferred; eligibility to gain future membership is required.
- Experience in a rural municipal planning environment with Council, Committees and politically sensitive issues are an asset.
- Minimum class 5 driver's licence with a clean abstract is required.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills with excellent customer service and interpersonal skills required.
- Proficiency with GIS Systems and other Microsoft Office programs is an asset.

Deadline for applicants is January 2, 2016 or until a suitable candidate is found. Visit www.brazeau.ab.ca for a full job description. Please ensure the specific position is clearly defined on cover letter. To apply for this position please send resume and cover letter to the attention of: Joy Knyta, Human Resources Coordinator, Brazeau County, jknyta@brazeau.ab.ca

Ph: 780-542-7777
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Community events

On Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. Pembina Agricultural Protection Association is having their AGM. RSVP your attendance by email: papoffice@gmail.com

Monday

• Sit and Get Fit exercise class @ 10 a.m. at Sunrise Village (3902-47th St.) Exercises done from a chair. All seniors welcome.

• First and third — Brain Injury Support Group meets @ Mitch's at 12:30 p.m.

• Bingo at the Drayton Valley Legion. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

• Line dancing @ the Scout Hall, 7:30 p.m.

• Bingo Tomhawk Agri Centre, doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo at 7:30 p.m. 780-339-2423 or 780-338-3747 for information!

1st Monday
• DV Art Club meetings, 7:30-8:45 p.m.

• DV Family Support & Intervention Program, women's group, 7-8 p.m. 542-6792 for more info.

• DV and District Historical Society meets, 1 p.m. at senior's drop-in centre.

2nd Tuesday
• Merit Cultural Youth Society meets @ 7 p.m. at FMHS Outreach. 780-542-9396 for more info.

• Pre-school swim, 12-12:40 p.m. @ DV Pool. 696-2543 for info.

Wednesdays
• Derrick Toastmasters meet 7-8:30 p.m. @ NorQuest College Campus. Everyone welcome. Call Marc @ 780-729-4932 for more info.

• Sit and Get Fit exercise class @ 10 a.m. at Sunrise Village (3902-47th St.) Exercises done from a chair. All seniors welcome.

• DV Family Support & Intervention Program, men's group, 7-8 p.m. 542-6792 for more info.

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Rescue @ 7 p.m. Don @ 780-542-2817, new members welcomed.

• Back Creek Community Assoc. general meetings.

• Women in the Wind meets @ River Rock (Super 8), 7 p.m.

2nd Wednesday
• DV and Get Fit exercise class @ 10 a.m. at Sunrise Village (3902-47th St.) Exercises done from a chair. All seniors welcome.

• DV Family Support & Intervention Program, men's group, 7-8 p.m. 542-6792 for more info.

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

The Anglican Parish of All Saints'

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Interim Priest
REV. MIRANDA SUTHERLAND

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Nativity School: 9:30-10:30 am
Bible Study: 10:30-11:30 am

Pastor: John Haazen

3rd Wednesday
• DV & District Cancer Support Group meets, 11:30 a.m. — Arca-

lia Union, Drayton, Howard @ 780-542-2735 and Fern @ 780-542-5416 for info.

• DV and District Historical Society meets, 1 p.m. at senior's drop-in centre.

Thursdays
• Narcotics Anonymous meetings, 7 p.m. @ United Church

• Brighter Futures Indoor Playground in Violet Green, 10-11:30 a.m. Call 780-514-5070 or 780-696-2543 for more information.

• Drayton Valley Fine Art Society PAINT IN! NOON at the Lutheran Church

2nd Thursday
• Maroon Lodge meetings, 7:30 p.m. (780) 342-5473.

• DV Hospital Auxiliary meets, 7 p.m. @ the hospital

• General meeting for Entwistle Community Hall @ the hall

starting @ 7:30 p.m. except June, July, August.

3rd Thursday
• DV Hearts & Hands Quilters' Guild at Emmaus Lutheran Church, at 7 p.m.

• Sit and Get Fit exercise class @ 10 a.m. at Sunrise Village (3902-47th St.) Exercises done from a chair. All seniors welcome.

• DV Family Support & Intervention Program, men's group, 7-8 p.m. 542-6792 for more info.

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CHURCH & MINISTRIES

4051-41 Avenue
Pastors: Mark & Leanne Esthman

SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30 a.m.

Please call our office at 780-542-5843
Email: ignitedchurch@telus.net

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

4708 - 50 Avenue, Drayton Valley

Parish Office: 542-5254

Rev. J.M. Jaya Rajan SAC

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 12:00 Noon

3rd Wednesday
• DV & District Cancer Support Group meets, 11:30 a.m. — Arca-

lia Union, Drayton, Howard @ 780-542-2735 and Fern @ 780-542-5416 for info.

• DV and District Historical Society meets, 1 p.m. at senior's drop-in centre.

Thursdays
• Narcotics Anonymous meetings, 7 p.m. @ United Church

• Brighter Futures Indoor Playground in Violet Green, 10-11:30 a.m. Call 780-514-5070 or 780-696-2543 for more information.

• Drayton Valley Fine Art Society PAINT IN! NOON at the Lutheran Church

2nd Thursday
• Maroon Lodge meetings, 7:30 p.m. (780) 342-5473.

• DV Hospital Auxiliary meets, 7 p.m. @ the hospital

• General meeting for Entwistle Community Hall @ the hall

starting @ 7:30 p.m. except June, July, August.

3rd Thursday
• DV Hearts & Hands Quilters' Guild at Emmaus Lutheran Church, at 7 p.m.

• Sit and Get Fit exercise class @ 10 a.m. at Sunrise Village (3902-47th St.) Exercises done from a chair. All seniors welcome.

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Homes

Amaryllis is no Naked Lady as name suggests

December is a festive time and during the celebrations there is a good chance that you will visit with family, friends and neighbours. When you are invited over to their place, protocol calls for a 'hostess' gift. I recommend that you bring a gift of amaryllis bulbs to your host. Why not? It is portable, affordable, a reliable performer and when it flowers it provides lasting memories of the good time celebrated on the night.

The amaryllis that you purchase as a bulb is actually a hippeastrum, a hybridized version of a South American native. The REAL amaryllis is a native of South Africa and is sometimes called a belladonna Lily of Naked Lady. Your amaryllis is no naked lady.

Here are my top 5 tips for buying a quality amaryllis bulb and growing it successfully:

1. Amaryllis and wine. The amaryllis has a lot in common with a bottle of wine. They are generally in the same price range, both are consumable (though an amaryllis can last for years) and indirectly, they are both products of Mother Nature. A quality amaryllis is determined by its size, most of all — the quality of wine is determined by its taste. This ends the comparison. Don't eat your amaryllis.

2. Growing. As your bulb comes to life you may notice that the leaves push through the top portion of the bulb first — don't be alarmed. This does not mean that your amaryllis is going to skip the flowering phase. Some bulbs will flower first. Go figure — this is nature.

3. Past flowering. Mid to late winter your amaryllis will have exhausted itself and finished flowering. Now it needs a rest, which consists of producing a lot of leaves that need the direct exposure to the sun, once again. The leaves are the food factory of the bulb. They will convert the energy of the sun into nutrition that will be transported to the bulb to help it up for a reflowering period next season. I call this process a miracle. Some people are less impressed but they clearly have not taken the time to think

about this alchemy of nature. To get it to reflower next winter, sink the pot and all into the ground in your garden (or a friend's garden) come May and leave it there for the summer. A sunny location works best. When the leaves turn brown cut them off and let nature take her course over the remainder of the gardening season.

In early September, remove it from the ground, clean it off and re-pot it into fresh soil. Keep in indoors in a cool location with low light for 6 to 10 weeks and water sparingly.

When you see a new shoot poking its way through the top of the bulb it is

ready to step #1 all over again. A properly cared for amaryllis can last for years with a little care and attention.

Mark Cullen appears on Canada AM every Wednesday morning at 8:40. He is the *Love and Garden expert* for Home Hardware. Sign up for his free monthly newsletter at www.markcullen.com.



Mark Cullen

market now that help stabilize the plant as it matures. Do not fertilize while in the growing phase.

1. Flowering. When the first stem begins to bloom pull the plant back into the room where there is less direct sunlight. This will have the effect of slowing down the blooming process and prolonging it, providing the maximum amount of time for you to enjoy it. The second and third (1) flower stem usually arrive in the lower light situation, but if yours is stubborn, put it back in a high-light window and wait for the new flower stems to arrive.

2. Past flowering. Mid to late winter your amaryllis will have exhausted itself and finished flowering. Now it needs a rest, which consists of producing a lot of leaves that need the direct exposure to the sun, once again. The leaves are the food factory of the bulb. They will convert the energy of the sun into nutrition that will be transported to the bulb to help it up for a reflowering period next season. I call this process a miracle. Some people are less impressed but they clearly have not taken the time to think

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Photo submitted

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